Government, farmers are free to realize a higher price by selling their produce in the open market.

With the amendment of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act for deregulation of the marketing system, the farmers now have more options to sell their produce to the prospective buyers.

(c) and (d) Between 2000-01 and 2006-07 MSP of pulses has been raised by a minimum of Rs. 210 per quintal in the case of Arhar (Tur) and a maximum of Rs. 345 per quintal in the case of Gram and Lentil (Masur). With regard to Oilseeds, the MSP has been raised by a minimum of Rs. 125 per quintal in the case of Soyabean (Black) and a maximum of Rs. 515 per quintal for Rapeseed/Mustard. During the same period production of pulses has been estimated to have increased to 14.10 million tonnes in 2006-07 from 11.07 million tonnes in 2000-01. The production of oilseeds has also been estimated to have increased to 232.64 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 from 184.4 lakh tonnes in 2000-01.

Quality of seeds

3985. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality of seeds are not reaching to the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this problem has stagnated the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. As reported by States the Certified/ Quality Seeds made available to the farmers during 2006-07 is 1,48,18,034 quintals against the demand of 1,28,76,392 quintals.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Special package for goat and piggery development in Kerala

3986. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to start a special package for goat and piggery development in Kerala, so as to support the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

Price stabilization fund

3987. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a price stabilization fund alongwith the market intervention plan for all agricultural products which is presently for only some cash crops like tobacco and tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The National Commission on Farmers, in its Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers has recommended the establishment of Market Price Sabilization Fund jointly by Central and State Governments and financial institutions to protect farmers during periods of violent fluctuations in prices. The Commission has also recommended that the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) should respond speedily to exigencies, specially in the case of sensitive crops in the rainfed areas. The recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers have been examined in consultation with the subject matter. Ministries and State Governments and a note has been circulated for the consideration of the Committee of Secretaries. A final decision on the recommendations of the Commission has not been taken by the Government so far.

However, the Government is implementing a Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds and pulses through NAFED and a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under PSS, in order to protect the growers from making distress sales.